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(\$4) Title: PHOTO-CURABLE VINYL ETHER COMPOSITIONS

A liquid composition carable by exposure to light of appropriate wavefragils, such as ultraviolet light, is a homogeneous liquid containing both vinyl ether groups and maleste or lumanate groups in the presence of a locator, or allocats, deactional accomposition of the barroyl diaryl phosphine naide photomistian. These compositions are free from residues of casions carring casalysis, which cause discontinuing and ensativity to water. Comed metals are better protected against corrosion. Other utilities include use in seculatority, dentistry, lamination of glass and other fibers and protrusson processes.

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PHOTO-CURABLE VINTL ETHER COMPOSITIONS

DESCRIPTION

Technical Field

This invention relates to photo-curable vinyl ether compositions having improved cure speed when exposed to light of appropriate wavelength. Coatings are primarily contemplated.

Background Art

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It is known that vinyl ethers cure rapidly when exposed to ultraviolet light in the presence of a cationic curing catalyst. Unfortunately, the cure under cutionic conditions leaves catalyst residues which discolor the cured films and cause them to be sensitive to water. Metals coated with such cured films are not adequately protected against corrosion.

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A rapid cure on ultraviolet exposure providing better cured films is obtained using (meth) acrylates in the presence of photoinitiators which can be described as beonic photoinitiators.

described as ketonic photoinitiators. However,

(meth) acrylates are generally hazardous to human.

health, so it is desired to eliminate these wherever

possible. Vinyl athers are much less toxic than

(meth) acrylates, but vinyl athers do not cure when

exposed to ultraviolet light in the presence of

ketonic photoinitiators. Similarly, unsaturated

polyesters containing maleic or fumaric unsaturation

are known to be non-toxic, but while these will cure

when exposed to ultraviolet light in the presence of

when exposed to ultraviolet light in the presence of

storic photoinitiators, the cure is unacceptably

slow.

While various ketonic photoinitiators are available, and while some of these are better than others in different situations, acetophenones are generally similar to the other ketonic

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photoinitiators. I know of no reason in the art why hydroxy or alkoxy-functional acetophenone derivatives, and more particularly hydroxyalkyl phenones, should behave differently with respect to vinyl ethers. Similarly, no reason is known why

benzoyl diaryl phosphine oxides, which are also known photoinitiators, should behave differently with respect to vinyl ethers. Nonetheless, the specified photoinitiators are uniquely effective in the combinations which are the subject of this

Summary of Invention

In accordance with this invention, a homogeneous liquid composition curable by exposure to light of appropriate wavelength, such as ultraviolet light, contains both vinyl ether groups and maleate or fumarate groups in the presence of an hydroxy or alkoxy-functional acetophenone derivative, preferably an hydroxyalkyl phenone, or a benzoyl

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diaryl phosphine oxide, as photoinitiator. These two different types of ethylenic unsaturations interact rapidly in the presence of the specifiéd photoinitiators to provide a rapid photocure. This is a surprising and important finding, and I do not know why this is so.

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More particularly, and using ordinary aryl ketone photoinitiators, such as benzophenone, maleate and fumarate-functional materials respond poorly to photocure using, for example, ultraviolet light.

Under these same conditions the vinyl ethers do not exhibit any substantial response to the ultraviolat exposure. Nonetheless, these two types of unsaturation in admixture respond to the photocure very rapidly when the photoinitiator is correctly selected. The photocure is especially rapid and

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effective when both of the described functionalities are provided in polyfunctional moleties, particularly those of resinous character. The fastest cures are obtained when the respective functionalities are present in about the same equivalent amount.

In the usual practice of this invention, the homogeneous liquid composition comprises a blend of a vinyl ether compound, preferably an oligomer containing a plurality of vinyl ether groups, and a maleic or fumaric-unsaturated ester, preferably a polyester containing a plurality of meleate or fumarete groups, and especially a resinous polyester which is of liquid character so as to minimize the need for diluents to reduce viscosity and thus enable coating application. The photoinitiator is usually added shortly prior to use, but this is not essential.

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The term "liquid", and any other term used herein to describe the physical condition of anything, is used in its normal sense to denote the condition at room temperature (about 25 C). The vinyl ether compound and the maleic or fumaric-unsaturated ester are either liquids themselves or in admixture, or if the mixture is not sufficiently flowable for the intended use, such as coating application, then other liquid components are added to provide the desired viscosity.

Detailed Description of Invention

The vinyl ether compounds which may be used herein are subject to wide variation, vinyl ether monomers, like butyl vinyl ether and octyl vinyl ether being useful. These monomers are volatile, and it is preferred to use the higher molecular weight vinyl ethers which are less volatile. The vinyl ether

compounds which are preferred are oligomeric and contain more than one vinyl ether group per molecule. To illustrate polyvinyl ether oligomers, one may use the bisvinyl ether of triethylene glycol or of any other diol, such as 1,6-hexane diol or dibutylene glycol. One may also use polyvinylates of other polyhydric alcohols, such as glycerin or trimethylol propens. Polyhydric polyethers can be

used, such as ethylene oxide, propylene oxide or lo butylene oxide adducts of polyhydric alcohols, illustrated by ethylene glycol, butylene glycol, glycerin, trimethylol propene or pentaerythritol. Polyvinyl ether polyurethanes of the type shown in U.S. Pat. No. 4,751,273 are also useful.

Liquid polyvinyl ethers are preferred for low viscosity, albeit ethylenic monomers, like n-butyl vinyl ether or monobutyl or dibutyl maleate or fumarate or volatile organic solvents may be used to reduce viscosity when this is desired.

The polyethylenic meleic or fumaric polyesters are preferably liquid hydroxy functional linear polyesters resins having an acid value of less than about 30.

The molecular weight of the polyester is determined by the ratio of hydroxyl to carboxyl groups. A ratio of about 2:1 or higher provides a low molecular weight while a ratio of about 1:1 provides high molecular weight. The extent of reaction also influences molecular weight, the low acid value products used herein indicating relatively complete reaction. Maleic and fumaric acids are dicarboxylic (maleic anhydride is also useful), and they are usually reacted with a diol, such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, or other

35 diol as illustrated herein, to provide the

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1.4:1.0 is preferred. Polyols containing more than polyester. A ratio in the range of from 1.1:1.0 to two hydroxy groups may be present in small amounts, such as up to about 25% of total hydroxy

The lowest molecular weight materials are useful functionality of trimethylol propane to provide branching in the otherwise linear polyester.

to use for that reason. Nonetheless, the difficulty of handling volatile materials does not prevent the higher molecular weight makes it more difficult to herein, albeit some of these are volatile and hard provide a homogeneous liquid composition, but the presence of monomeric unsaturated liquid diluents combined in a homogeneous liquid composition. So rapid cure which is achieved herein. Similarly, molecular weights of the components which can be and volatile organic solvents can extend the 9 12

long as the composition is a homogeneous liquid, it

can be used herein.

from a weight ratio of 5:95 to 95:5. However, it is ratio of from 35:65 to 65:35. As should be evident, preferred to employ a weight ratio of from 20:80 to fumaric-unsaturated polyester may yary considerably The blend of vinyl ether compound and maleic or 80:20. Best results are obtained using a weight unsaturated groups is not essential in this an exact balance between the two types of 25 20

the maleate or fumerate groups, the fastest and best cures are obtained when these two groups are present in about stoichiometric proportions. Thus, the cure precise balance between the vinyl ether groups and speed falls off badly when the equivalent ratio of the two types of groups is outside the range of While useful results are obtained without a 3 35

time, the selected photoinitiator. However, these two separate functionalities may be present in the composition to which is added, at any convenient It is desired to point out that in the usual about 3:1 to about 1:3, preferably 2:1 to 1:2. situation one blends a vinyl ether-functional material and a maleate or fumarate-functional material together into a homogeneous liquid same oligomeric molecule.

to form 2-hydroxypropyl monobutyl maleate. One mole vinyl ether group in the compound hydroxybutyl vinyl adducted with a molar proportion of propylene oxide hydroxypropyl monobutyl maleate can then be reacted ether. Maleic anhydride can be adducted with butyl To illustrate using the same molecule to support both types of unsaturations, one may provide the alcohol to form monobutyl maleste which is then of hydroxybutyl vinyl ether and one mole of 2with one mole of an organic diisocyanate, like 20 13

isophorone dissocyanate. This reaction is 20

and then the second unsaturated compound is added to manner using catalysts such as dibutyl tin dilaurate preferably carried out in two stages so that all of one of the two unsaturated compounds bonds with the more reactive isocyanate group on the disocyanate, and temperatures of about 30 C in the first stage and 60 C in the sacond stage. This polyurethane result is a polyurethane formed in conventional react with the remaining isocyanate group.

appropriate light exposure in accordance with this The acetophenone derivatives which may be used the same molecule, and these can be cured by invention.

have the formula:

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contains vinyl ether groups and maleate groups in

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be alkyl or aryl, e.g., methyl, ethyl, butyl, octyl or phanyl, X is selected from the group consisting containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which may in which R' is an optional hydrocarbon substituent of hydroxy, C,-C, alkoxy, C,-C, alkyl, cycloalkyl, halogen, and phenyl, or 2 %s together are

cycloshkyl, and at least one X is selected from bydroxy and C,-C, alkoxy. 2

Only a few of the useful compounds are available in commerce. Thus, one can use the Ciba-Geigy product methyl or ethyl, the cycloalkyl group is preferably cyclohexyl, and the halogen is preferably chlorine. structure. Thus, the alkoxy groups are preferably methomy or ethoxy, the alkyl group is preferably All sorts of compounds have the required Irgacure 651 which has the formula:

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OCH3
Irgacure 184 is another useful acetophenone derivative, and it has the formula:

acetophenone derivative is diethoxy acetophenone Still another commercially available useful which has the formula:

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the hydroxyalkyl phenones which are preferred herein When the photoinitiator is an hydroxy-functional derivatives in a somewhat different manner. Thus, compound, one can define the useful acetophenone

substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and in which k is an alkylone group containing from 2-8 which may be alkyl or aryl, e.g., methyl, ethyl, carbon atoms and R' is an optional hydrocarbon butyl, octyl or phenyl.

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preferably a tertiary hydroxy group which defines an hydroxy group carried by a carbon atom which has its remaining three valences connected to other carbon It is particularly preferred that the hydroxy group be in the 2 position in which case it is

which will be found the commercial material used to atoms. Particularly preferred compounds within obtain the data discussed have the formula: 9

in which R" is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms. In the commercial product Darocur

phenyl propane 1-one. The corresponding compound in hexane, and these will further illustrate preferred 1173, each R" is methyl. This provides a compound which can be described as 2-hydroxy, 2-methyl, 1the the term, "propane" is replaced by butane or compounds in this invention. 35

The benroyl diaryl phosphine oxide photoinitiators which may be used herein have the structure:

In the above formula, R' is an optional hydrocarbon substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which may be alkyl or aryl as previously noted, and n is an integar from 1 to 3. In preferred practice, a 2,4,6-trimethyl benroyl compound is used, and the two aromatic groups

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15 This provides the compound 2,4,6-trimethyl bensoyl diphenyl phosphine oxide which is available from BASF under the trade designation Lucerin.

When solvent is used, it is usually desired to

connected to the phosphorus atom are phenyl groups.

When solvent is used, it is usually desired to allow most of the solvent to vaporize before the 20 deposited coating is cured by exposure to light, but this is not essential, especially when the solvent proportion is small.

The viscosity-reducing liquids are illustrated by reactive diluents, such as monomeric vinyl ethers (ethyl vinyl ether or butyl vinyl ether) or monomeric maleates (like monobutyl maleate or dibutyl maleate). Inert diluents, like volatile organic solvents (methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, butyl acetate, or 2-ethoxy ethanol) are also useful to reduce viscosity, albeit these are preferably evaporated prior to light exposure, as has been

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It is strassed that vinyl ethers do not cure when exposed to ultraviolet light in the presence of ordinary ketonic photoinitiators, such as

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benzophenone. Similarly, unsaturated polyesters in which the unsaturation is provided by the meleate or fumerate group cure slowly and unsatisfactorily when exposed to ultraviolet light in the presence of

s ketonic photoinitiators, such as benzophenone.
Interestingly, a mixture of these two components is
also curable on ultraviolet light exposure in the
presence of a conventional ketonic photinitiator,
such as benzophenone. While the cure of such
in mixtures is still unacceptably slow, I have found it
to be faster than one might suspect from the actions
of the two separate components.

However, when the ketonic photoinitiator is selected to be an hydroxyalkyl phenone photoinitiator, then the cure of the mixture is

quite rapid and useful, as will be illustrated.

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while the compositions of this invention are useful when the named components are the only ones present, other saturated and unsaturated materials may also be present. Thus, volatile solvents may be present as well as saturated and unsaturated resins of various type, such as linoleic acid-modified saturated polyesters. It is preferred not to have acrylate-functional materials present, for these introduce toxicity problems which are largely

avoided by this invention.

A composition was formulated to contain 20 parts by weight of a bisvinyl ether of triethylene glycol, 22.8 parts by weight of a polyester made by reacting 1.5 moles of maleic anhydride with 1.8 moles of 1,5-pentane diol to an acid value of 10, at which point the unsaturated polyester is a viscous liquid at room temperature. The ratio of vinyl ether groups to maleate groups in this composition is about 1:1.

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35 When a photoinitiator was added to this composition

weight. It is noted that all parts and proportions herein are by weight, unless otherwise specified. it was added in a proportion of about 0.5% by

about 300 nanometers in wavelength. Three exposures The described composition in the absence of added using only 1 J/cm represents a desirable cure rate, were used, namely: 1, 2, and 3 J/cm2. A full cure drawing it down with a #40 wire wound rod and the initiator was coated on an aluminum substrate by wet coating was exposed to ultraviolet light of whereas 3 J/cm2 is too slow for connercial use.

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The uncatalyzed mixture was stable in the dark for cure was observed on any of the three ultraviolet stable, but in the absence of added initiator no more than two weeks, and thus is satisfactorily exposures. 5

The described composition was then catalyzed with Joule level, but even using 3 Joules which produced benzophenone. A slight cure was observed at the 2 solvent, the film was cheesey and unsatisfactory. significant resistance to methyl ethyl ketone

Michler's ketone (tetramethyldiamino-

slightly better than with benzophenone, but the film benzophenone. The cure at the 2 Joule level was was still cheesey at the 3 Joule exposure level. benzhydrol) was then substituted for the 25

Naphthalene was then tried as the catalyst, but no activity was seen.

Michler's ketone was combined with a cationic curing catalyst known to be useful for curing vinyl ethers. catalyst (a sulfonium cationic catalyst supplied by General Electric under the trade designation GE-UVE A 50:50 catalyst mixture was then used in which The cure was rapid, producing significant solvent 1014). This product is a commercial cationic

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conventional cationic cure is not acceptable, albeit the cured film was very dark and cratered, and hence resistance at the 1 Joule exposure level. However, unsatisfactory. This illustrates how the

2-hydroxypropyl phenone in which the hydroxy group such a cure is quite rapid.

photoinitiator available under the trade designation described composition. A full cure was obtained at Darocur 1173 from the E-M Company, Hawthorne, NY). based on the weight of the composition to cure the the 1 Joule exposure level. The cured film was This photoinitiator was used in an amount of 4% is a tertiary hydroxy group is a known 2

film, and is quite surprising in the light of the resistance to methyl ethyl ketone solvent. This represents a rapid cure to obtain a useful cured clear and continuous and possessed significant various failures which have been reported. 15

weight of 2,4,6-trimethyl benzoyl diphenyl phosphine Replacing 2-hydroxypropyl phenone with an equal oxide, similar outstanding results were obtained. 20

itself, no cure was obtained using up to 3 Joules of In contrast, and using 4% of Darocur 1173 to try ultraviolet exposure. Using 4% of Darocur 1173 to three times the exposure was needed in comparison tacky until 3 Joules of ultraviolet exposure had been applied. This represents a slow cure since to cure the triethylene glycol divinyl ether by try to cure the maleate polyester, the film was 25

The light used for cure in this invention can have a wavelength anywhere in the ultraviolet range, with the presence of both unsaturated groups. 30

broadly identifies wavelengths which are shorter than 600 nanometers, preferably shorter than 400 35

including visible light close to that range. This

nanometers (usually 200-150 nanometers).

Monomeric components which are appropriately unsaturated are presently viewed as the bast materials with which to reduce any excessive viscosity which may be present. These are

illustrated by vinyl ethers, such as ethyl vinyl ether, propyl vinyl ether and butyl vinyl ether, but other less volatile materials are proferred, like octyl vinyl ether or butylene glycol divinyl ether.

funarates, such as a C₁-C₂ ester of maleates and funarates, such as a C₁-C₂ ester of maleac or funaric acid, such as monobutyl maleate or monocctyl funarate. Simple dimaleates, such as glycerin dimaleate or butane diol dimaleate may also be present. One may also employ up to about 10% of all the content of the c

present. One may also employ up to about 10% of allylic monomers or oligomers containing the same, like diallyl succinate or diallyl adipate. Even styrene or vinyl toluene may be present to reduce viscosity. Regardless of the presence of these additional components, the hydroxyalkyl phenones enhance the light-activated cure of liquid compositions containing both vinyl ether groups and maleic or fumaric unsaturation.

When the polyvinyl ether and the polyester possess sacessive viscosity, it is preferred to employ up to 40%, preferably from 5% to 25%, of the above-described liquid monomers based on the weight of the composition, but these are not essential.

It is preferred, as illustrated, to employ a homogeneous liquid mixture of a polyvinyl ether and a linear polyester having a plurality of maleate or fumarate groups. These polyesters are preferably formed by polyesterifying maleic acid or anhydride or fumaric acid with a dihýdric alcohol containing from 2-8 carbon atoms to an acid number of less than

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30. Such liquid mixturns can be sold without the photoinitiator which is added by the user prior to Coating application and exposure to light of appropriate wavelength, e.g., ultraviolet light.

Some further tests were made using the polyvinyl ether-maleic polyester mixture described previously, but using 3% of photoinitiator. A full cure to 100 MEX double rub resistance was had using Darocur 1173 on an exposure of only 0.5 Joules per sq. cm. Using 10 Irgacure 651, Irgacure 184 and disthoxy

Irgacure 651, Irgacure 184 and diethoxy acetophenone, the stated full cure required twice the exposure (1 Joule per sq. cm). In two of these instances, some slight rub off was observed, so the cure was slightly inadequate. Other photoinitiators were less satisfactory, illustrated by benzophenone

15 were less satisfactory, illustrated by benzopher which cured to less than 100 MEK double rub resistance using 2 Joules per sq. cm. Changing proportions to 2:1, the results were components was in excess. Some inadequacies in the cure began to show up using proportions of 3:1, and the cure performance degrades further when the equivalent proportions are further out of balance.

almost as good regardless of which of the two

While coating application is primarily intended herein, other utilities, such as use in stereolithography, dentistry, lamination of glass and other fibers, and protrusion processes, are also contemplated.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- composition being a homogeneous liquid containing both vinyl ether groups and meleate or fumarate groups in the presence of an hydroxy or alkoxyfunctional acetophenone derivative or a bentoyl 1. A photocurable liquid composition, said diaryl phosphine oxide as photoinitiator.
- 2. A liquid composition as recited in claim 1 in unexturated polyester present in a weight ratio of polyvinyl ether oligomer and a maleic or fumericwhich said composition comprises a bland of a 5:95 to 95:5.

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- functional liquid resin having an acid value of less 3. A liquid composition as recited in claim 2 in unsaturated polyester are present in a weight ratio than 30 and said polyvinyl ether oligomer and said which said unsaturated polyester is an hydroxyof from 20:80 to 80:20. 13
- 4. A liquid composition as recited in claim 3 in functional liquid having an acid value of less than unsaturated polyester are present in a weight ratio which said unsaturated polyester is an hydroxy-30 and said vinyl ether compound and said of from 35:65 to 65:35.
 - 5. A liquid composition as recited in claim 1 in which said photoinitiator has the formula:

alkoxy, Ci-Cg alkyl, cyclosikyl, halogen, and phenyl, selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C,-C, in which R' is an optional hydrocarbon substituent or 2 Xs together are cycloalkyl, at least one X containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and X is

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said polyester is a maleic acid, maleic anhydride or hydroxy groups to carboxyl groups of from 1.1:11.0 to 1.4:1.0 and having an acid number of less than 30. liquid composition as recited in claim 5 in which fumaric acid polyester with a dihydric alcohol containing from 2-8 carbon atoms in a ratio of being selected from hydroxy and C,-C, alkoxy.

6. A liquid composition as recited in claim 5 in maleate or fumarate groups is in the range of about which the equivalent ratio of the vinyl ether and 3:1 to about 1:3.

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7. A liquid composition as recited in claim 1 in which said photoinitiator has the formula:

- in which R' is an optional hydrocarbon substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and n is an integar from 1 to 3.
- 8. A liquid composition as recited in claim 7 in position with respect to the carbonyl group in said which the hydroxy group in said formula is in the 2 formula and the hydroxy group in said formula is a tertiary hydroxy group.
- 9. A liquid composition as recited in claim 8 in which said photoinitiator is the compound 2,4,6trimethyl benzoyl diphenyl phosphine oxide.

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10. A method of coating a substrate comprising, substrate, and then exposing said film to light in applying the mixture of claim 1 as a film upon a or near the ultraviolet range to cure the same.

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AMENDED CLADIS

(received by the International Bureau on 29 January 1990 (29.01.90) original claims 6-10 amended; other claims unchanged (1 page)]

being selected from hydroxy and C,-C, alkoxy.

- groups to carboxyl groups of from 1.1:1.0 to 1.4:1.0 and A liquid composition as recited in claim 5 in which said polyester is a maleic acid, maleic anhydride containing from 2-8 carbon atoms in a ratio of hydroxy or fumaric acid polyester with a dihydric alcohol having an acid number of less than 30.
- maleate or fumarate groups is in the range of about 3:1 A liquid composition as racited in claim 5 in which the equivalent ratio of the vinyl ether and to about 1:3.
- 8. A liquid composition as recited in claim 1 in which said photoinitiator has the formula:

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containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and n is an integer in which R' is an optional hydrocarbon substituent

9. A liquid composition as recited in claim 8 in which said photoinitiator is the compound 2,4,6trimethyl banzoyl diphenyl phosphine oxide.

upon a substrate, and then exposing said film to light comprising, applying the mixture of claim 1 as a film in or near the ultraviolet range to cure the same. 10. A method of coating a substrate

SUSAN BERMAN

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

1	CELEBORGATION OF SHEARCT BATTER A
TEC.	IPC ⁴ COBU 63776 COBL 67/02 GO3C 1/727, 5/ 04 IPC ⁴ CT 525/44 522/107, 14, 44, 90, 913 430/281, 285, 494
3	Constraint Several Constraints Section 1
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1	COMMINTS COMBROGRED TO BE RELEVANT !
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×	US, A 4,721,734 (GELHAUS ET AL) 26 JANUARY 1988 SEE COLUMN 4, LINES 45-53, COLUMN 7, LINES 42-47 AND COLUMN 8, LINES 9-14.
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THE PORNULA OF CLAIM FRY HE RESPECT TO THE CARBONYL GROUP. THE PORNULA OF CLAIM 7 DOES NOT INDICATE A HYDROXYL GROUP. IN THE 2 POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE CARBONYL GROUP. THE DESCRIPTION MAY HE APPLICABLE TO THE CARBONYL GROUP.
1 Care names Perf. And s.d.s. Institute first are departured claims are decided in constitutes with the second and that carefulates of ref. Perf. And s.d.s. N Observe Annals Windles Userry Of INVESTIGATES IS LACKING The Institutes of Secondry Australia Institutes on the intervalenced application to believe:
1 As all reported admitted describing was brank paid by the aspiritual, this international seasts report covers all sourceable diames 1 As any season admitted admitted asserts have served their paid by the septical, this international seasts have been been paid by the septical, this international seasts respect covers and management aspirituates for which less wave peal, seachfully diames; 1 In a resource described season has been been been been and a covered by the septical Consequents, the international seasts report to resource to be cleaned; it is covered by clean remainer;

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